

# Don't Run With Scissors!

May 2008

Safety Communiqué from the Technical Division Head



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Spring is most definitely fully arrived. We feel it in the warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours, increased insect activity, and more. It is likely that we will be spending more time outdoors and we should stay aware of some of the potential dangers and nuisances we may encounter. Keep your eyes open for bee and wasp nests. Look first before reaching into any enclosed spaces and watch overhead for activity. Also keep an eye out for poison ivy and ticks, especially if you go out in the fields. Another possible nuisance you may encounter is geese. The dog "goose patrol" Fermilab hired will be discontinued May 15, 2008, when the peak of geese nesting season has passed.



Spring also can bring a threat of increased severe weather. We have already held a tornado drill earlier this year and we hold monthly tests of our labwide emergency notification system. We appreciate that our employees take these drills seriously and understand that by practicing under non-threatening circumstances, we'll be better prepared for any real emergency that might strike. Be aware of where the closest shelter is, no matter where you are located in the lab.

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>Warmer weather brings our stinging insect friends. Some examples from the past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While attaching a hose to a pipe (connected to a pump), an employee was stung by a wasp. (Later noticed a wasp nest in pipe.)</li> <li>• Employee was stung (insect unknown) on the back of the neck.</li> <li>• While putting material into recycling bin, an employee was stung by a wasp on the left hand. A nest was discovered under the lip of the dumpster.</li> </ul>	<p>Employees need to be on the lookout for insect activity, and be cognizant of areas where these insects like to build their nests.</p>
<p>There have been numerous vehicle incidents at the lab involving government owned vehicles. The majority of the incidents involve backing into a stationary object, such as a bollard, concrete barrier, guard rail, rock, etc., placed there to protect a piece of equipment or structure.</p>	<p>These incidents could have been avoided if the individual had taken notice of obstructions behind the vehicle before entering the driver's seat. Many of these objects are below the line of vision in the rearview mirror. It is the driver's responsibility to navigate the vehicle in and out of parking spaces carefully.</p>
<p>A technician at Argonne was using a drill press to enlarge a hole in a mounting bracket when the drill bit caught on the bracket, pulling it out of the vise in which it was being held. The bracket spun around on the bit and struck the technician in the hand, which was being used to hold the vise from moving.</p>	<p>There were several factors that contributed to this incident and the subsequent injury. First, the bracket had been improperly secured in the vise. Second, the vise should have been secured to the drill press table, for example with a clamp. This would have eliminated the need for the technician to hold the vise with his hand. Third, it was determined that the technician had not received adequate training on the use of the drill press.</p>

Most safety experts believe that all accidents can be prevented. As you can see by the prevention column, a little extra care and attention on the part of the individuals might have avoided these accidents from occurring.